

cc Mr. Boardman
cc Mr. Belmont
cc Mr. Baumgardner
cc Mr. Williams
cc Liaison Section

January 10, 1957

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
BY COURIER SERVICE

Honorable Sherman Adams
The Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED BY SPYMAC/PMC
8-31-83

My dear Mr. Adams:

Reference is made to the telephonic request on January 9, 1957, of Mr. J. William Barba of your staff, for information concerning Frederick John Kasper, Jr.

In accordance with Mr. Barba's request there is enclosed a memorandum setting forth information concerning Kasper and his activities.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure

RECORDED-6

INDEXED-6

100-423895-280

See memo Belmont to Boardman, 1/10/57, JHK:dlj, captioned "Frederick John Kasper, Jr.; White Citizens' Councils of District of Columbia."

JHK:dlj

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Boardman
Belmont
Baumgardner
Liaison
Williams

January 10, 1957

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8-30-83 BY SP7MAC/PMC

FREDERICK JOHN KASPER, JR. *Sherman Adams*

Frederick John Kasper, Jr., was born at Camden, New Jersey, on October 21, 1929, the son of Frederick John Kasper, Sr., and Rose Kasper. Kasper, Sr., an engineer, was affiliated with a Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, heating company until he died about two years ago. His mother is residing at 25 North Center Street, Merchantville, New Jersey. Kasper has used the names John Kasper and Fred Kasper.

Kasper attended Temple University High School in Philadelphia, graduating in June, 1947. He attended Yankton College, Yankton, South Dakota, until June, 1949, withdrawing after completing his sophomore year. Kasper enrolled at Columbia University in 1949 and received a degree of Bachelor of Science in 1951. (100-423395-217)

Kasper, at the instruction and insistence of his parents, voluntarily became a patient in the Pennsylvania Hospital's Department for Mental and Nervous Diseases, Philadelphia, on August 29, 1946. His condition was diagnosed as psychopathic personality without psychosis. Upon his release on September 27, 1946, his condition was described as unchanged. Kasper's parents gave as reasons for having him admitted to the hospital (1) he refused to accept parental guidance and discipline and (2) he kept running away from home. (100-423395-247)

Records of United States Draft Board No. 8, Camden, New Jersey, contain a letter dated November 3, 1950, from Kasper in which he stated he was subject to extreme periods of depression and that he had been a patient in a mental hospital for early homosexuality and for general neurotic behavior.

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YELLOW: See memo Belmont to Boardman, 1/10/57, "Frederick John Kasper, Jr.; White Citizens' Councils of District of Columbia," JHK:dlj.

Original to Honorable Sherman Adams, White House

C.F.Williams/gft
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100-423395-280 *[Signature]*

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On January 3, 1951, Kasper received a physical examination for service in the United States Army, at which time he was found to be suffering from a psychopathic personality, severe. He was rejected for military service and classified 4F. (100-423395-240)

With regard to Kasper's homosexuality, information was received in July, 1956, through a source in New York City, who has furnished reliable information in the past, to the effect that an individual who had known Kasper well said "It's hard to understand his sudden dislike for Negroes as he seemed to prefer Negro homosexuals to any other kind." (100-423395-93)

Following graduation from Columbia University, Kasper resided at 526 East 6th Street, New York City, and was employed by Gilmore's, 148 East 48th Street; the National Industrial Conference Board, Incorporated, 247 Park Avenue; Household Finance Corporation, 44 East 23rd Street; Bookland, 147 West 42nd Street; and Arts, Incorporated, 667 Madison Avenue, all in New York City. The exact dates of his employment with these firms are not known.

Following his graduation from Columbia University, Kasper also frequented Greenwich Village in New York City and there met Lena Lett, who financed the establishment of the "Make It New Book Shop," 169 Bleecker Street, New York City, which was operated as a partnership by Kasper and Lett. This bookshop was a hangout for assorted characters, mostly young college students and many Negro and Chinese homosexuals. The bookshop was opened only from late afternoon until late at night. Kasper had no other employment but received a steady income from numerous married women whom he accommodated sexually during the day. In addition to Kasper, who worked part time in the bookshop, the shop was also operated by a young female Negro, [redacted] and persons frequenting the shop stated that [redacted] was the girl friend of Kasper.

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Kasper had no money invested in the store and when it became apparent that it was not a financial success he left New York City owing rent on the bookshop and

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indebted to his partner in the sum of \$400, which sum he agreed to pay her. As late as June, 1956, while still paying rent for a room at 526 East 6th Street, New York City, he was spending most of his time in Washington, D. C., attempting to organize a white citizens council.

(100-423395-93)

The New York "Amsterdam News," a leading New York Negro newspaper, dated September 29, 1956, carried an article captioned "Race Baiter John Kasper Was Village Negro Lover." According to this article, he did not practice what he preached about racial segregation insofar as Negroes were concerned. It was revealed in the article that Kasper's closest friend in the artists' colony had stated with respect to Kasper that "We shared the same bed on numerous occasions in my former studio at 61 4th Avenue and often he (Kasper) spent all night sleeping on the floor with Negro girls and boys after one of our exhausting parties." This article attributed statements from Avant Garde and Ted Joans regarding Kasper to the effect that he said he wanted to be remembered in history and, although he was a very quiet, gentlemanly type fellow, he often said he would do anything, go to any extreme, to gain recognition. According to Joans, Kasper on one occasion at a party urged those present to join the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and secured twelve members for this organization. He himself did not join and was reported to have stated that he would not join "because of the Jew."

The September 27, 1956, issue of "Jet," a weekly Negro magazine, contained an article stating that Kasper was a surprise to Greenwich Village art circles when he sparked the Clinton, Tennessee, school rioting. The article stated that while he operated the bookshop in New York City, he held interracial week-and parties. The article also stated that he had a "colored chick and once acted as go-between for a married interracial couple in helping them get an apartment." (100-423395-230)

In late 1955, Kasper and [redacted] began operation of the Cadmus Bookshop, 1246 Wisconsin Avenue, Northwest, Washington, D. C., which became headquarters of the White Citizens' Councils of District of Columbia (WCC),

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also known as Seaboard White Citizens' Councils. In September, 1956, offices of WCC were moved to 3204 M Street, Northwest, Washington, D. C. The Pivot Bookshop, 3231 P Street, Northwest, Washington, D. C., opened November 21, 1956, and was announced as the successor to the Cadmus Bookshop by [redacted]

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Kasper organized WCC in June, 1956, which became affiliated with the North Alabama Citizens' Council headed by Asa E. (Ace) Carter of Birmingham, Alabama. Carter is a strong advocate of segregation of the races. According to "The Evening Star," a Washington, D. C., newspaper, dated June 6, 1956, an interview with Kasper set forth the aims of the WCC as follows:

- (1) To stop the integration process in Washington, reverse it, and re-establish segregation
- (2) Get the NAACP on the Attorney General's subversive list
- (3) Publicize commercial contributions to the NAACP and the Urban League
- (4) Wipe out "rock-n-roll" music

On the night of July 13-14, 1956, Kasper, in the company of other members of the WCC, burned crosses in front of the residences of Justice Felix Franfurter, Chief Justice Earl Warren, former Senator Herbert Lehman, former United States Solicitor General Simon Sobeloff, and at the home of Mrs. Douglas King, NAACP leader in Maryland. This event was prominently mentioned in Washington, D. C., newspapers.

Kasper and three associates were arrested on August 4, 1956, at Charlottesville, Virginia, for distributing WCC literature without permission. The charges against them were dropped by the city on August 11, 1956. After the charges were dropped, Kasper and other members of WCC held rallies in Charlottesville on August 18, 1956, and September 2, 1956, in behalf of their promotion of segregation. The meetings were poorly attended and Kasper and his associates were disappointed and made no overt attempt to continue WCC practices in that city.

(100-423395-107,191,217)

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On August 10, 1956, at about 3:00 a.m., Kasper engaged a Negro woman in conversation on the street and accompanied her into an alley, remaining in the alley with the Negro woman for approximately twenty-one minutes. After leaving the area of the alley, Kasper engaged another Negro woman in conversation on the street, asking her where he could find an open bar and girls. Being unsuccessful in this inquiry, Kasper went to the apartment of [redacted] his bookshop partner, at [redacted] about 5:00 a.m. on August 10, 1956. (100-423395-56)

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Kasper appeared in Clinton, Tennessee, on August 26, 1956, advocating a boycott of Clinton High School by the students and residents of Clinton because Negro students were registered in that school. He was arrested on that date on a charge of "inciting to riot." The charge was dismissed on August 28, 1956, because of insufficient evidence and Kasper thereafter continued urging the townspeople to rebel against integration.

On August 29, 1956, United States District Judge Robert L. Taylor at Knoxville, Tennessee, issued a restraining order prohibiting Kasper and five residents of Anderson County, Tennessee, (Clinton is county seat of Anderson County) from further interfering with the integration of the Clinton High School. Kasper continued to urge persons attending meetings of WCC in Clinton to join that organization. Asa Carter also spoke at Clinton and both Carter and Kasper were successful in enlisting new members for WCC. On August 30, 1956, Kasper was arrested by the United States Marshal at Knoxville, Tennessee, on a contempt charge and the following day was found guilty of contempt in the United States District Court. He was sentenced to serve one year in the custody of the Attorney General. On September 7, 1956, Kasper was released following the posting of \$10,000 bond for his contempt of court charge, pending appeal of his conviction in the Sixth United States Circuit Court of Appeals.

(100-423395-211)

On September 24, 1956, Kasper was arrested by the Anderson County Sheriff on charges of sedition and inciting to riot. He was released the same date under

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\$2,000 bond. His trial commenced November 5, 1956. On November 20, 1956, the jury returned a verdict of not guilty on both charges. (100-423395-211)

"The Evening Star," a Washington, D. C., newspaper, dated January 6, 1957, contained an article stating that Kasper forfeited \$30.25 collateral in Fairfax County, Virginia, court on January 4, 1957, on a reckless driving charge.

In connection with Kasper's activities as a segregationist, literature has been prepared and speeches made in which both President Eisenhower and the Supreme Court were severely criticized.

In July, 1956, a leaflet entitled "Virginians on Guard!" prepared by Kasper, was issued by the Seaboard White Citizens' Councils. This leaflet contained statements, in crude printing, "Now damn all race-mixers, the stink: Roose, Harry and Ike," and "Hang 9 Supreme Court swine (this year domine '56)." (100-423395-18)

Donations for the defense of Kasper were solicited in a two-page leaflet dated October 15, 1956, on the letterhead of the Seaboard White Citizens' Councils. This literature referred to President Eisenhower as "'ike' (the imbecile in the White House)" and to the United States Supreme Court as "Red-controlled." (100-423395-229)

At a meeting of the WCC held August 9, 1956, at 3201 Nichols Avenue, Southeast, Washington, D. C., Kasper, in addressing those present, referred to President Eisenhower as a "hollow-headed pumpkin in the White House." (100-423395-56)

Kasper was the principal speaker at a segregation rally held at the Central Park Theater in Birmingham, Alabama, on September 13, 1956, at which time he made such statements as:

"We can no longer wait. We can no longer put it off. We must fight by every available means."

"The Supreme Court is enforcing a manner of life that we do not want and will not have."

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"We believe that total collapse of law and order is at hand. We must use every means to stop the niggers — every means."

"Some of us may die before this thing is over."

On September 17, 1956, Kasper addressed a citizens council meeting at Wetumpka, Alabama. In his speech he referred to the Supreme Court decision of May 17, 1954, regarding segregation in public schools as "the mandate of the communist on the Supreme Court."

On a television appearance at Station WSFA-TV, Montgomery, Alabama, on September 20, 1956, Kasper said the Supreme Court is forcing its "own communist ideologies on the American people." He said the people now have a "communist Supreme Court" and a "communist Government." In referring to the President he said "We have a hollow pumpkin on a pole, Eisenhower."

In a speech delivered September 21, 1956, at Montgomery, Alabama, Kasper attacked many public officials and specifically stated that former Presidents Roosevelt and Truman and President Eisenhower are all "soft on communism." (100-423395-210)

On December 6, 1956, Kasper gave a statement to "The Evening Star," a Washington, D. C., newspaper, in which he stated in part that we "will spill our blood on the ground before we will ever accept dictatorship in the White House or communists on the Supreme Court." Kasper made this statement in referring to the arrests of individuals in Clinton, Tennessee, on contempt of court charges for their participation in the segregation issue. (100-423395-263)

It is noted that on Edward R. Murrow's program, "See It Now," on January 6, 1957, a one-hour film resume of the disturbances resulting from the Federal court ruling concerning the integration of the Clinton High School was shown. In this connection excerpts from a talk given by Kasper in Louisville, Kentucky, following

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his arrest on contempt of court charges were included. Kasper bitterly denounced both political parties in the United States, including Adlai Stevenson and President Eisenhower. He was most critical of the United States Supreme Court, referring to its members as communists.